(a) the outcome of the committee appointed by Prime Minister to consider the demand of Venjaras and Sikhligar Communities to put them in the category of Nomadic Tribes;

(b) the steps that have been taken by the Government to give both communities same status in each State now they are under different categories;

(c) whether National Commission for Minorities have also sent a proposal about this and what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) how long Government will take to provide Tribal Category facility to these communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) A Commission, namely, the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes was constituted which submitted its report on 2nd July, 2008. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

(c) The National Commission for Minorities got a study conducted on 'Social-economic, cultural, traditional and occupation status of the Sikhligar, Lubana, Vanjara and Dakhini Sikh communities'. The recommendations of the study report were forwarded to (i) State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi (ii) Ministries of Ministry Affairs, Human Resource Development, Labour and Employment and Small and Micro Enterprises for taking appropriate action and (iii) UNDP to include these Sikh Communities in their on-going livelihood programmes.

(d) No such proposal for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes has been received from the State Governments by the Central Government.

Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SCs/STs

2404. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC/ST has not met with much response;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to fully utilize the money allotted for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Following actions are taken to optimally utilize the money allocated for the scheme:-

(i) applications are invited through advertisements in news papers and suitable awardees are selected through a laid down procedure.

(ii) Details of the scheme are put on the website of the Ministry for information of general public and also to seek more applications for scholarships; and

(iii) assistance is taken from Indian Missions abroad to ensure timely release of admissible expenses to awardees.

However, all the provisionally selected candidates do not always get admission in foreign University/Institution in the year of their selection. Hence, annual expenditure under the scheme may vary.

National institutes functioning under M/o Social Justice and Empowerment

2405. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the national institutes functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, State-wise;

(b) the funds provided to them during each of the last three years;

(c) the amount spent alongwith the reasons for non-spending and over-spending;

(d) whether any review was conducted during the period on the functioning of these institutes; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) The seven National Institutes functioning under the Ministry are:

(i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

(ii) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

(iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (AYJNIHH), Mumbai, Maharashtra.

(iv) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata, West Bengal.

(v) Swami Vivekanand National Institute for Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttuck, Orissa.

(vi) Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for Physically Handicapped (PDUIPH), New Delhi.

(vii) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) The details of funds provided to these National Institutes during last three years is given in Statement. (*See* below)